

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY CONCERNING LOANS
BY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIS)

FROM HOLBROOKE FOR AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES ONLY

1. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT (A) IN ANTICIPATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION APPLICABLE TO IFIS, SPECIFICS
OF WHICH STILL TO BE IRONED OUT BETWEEN HOUSE AND SENATE,
AND (B) IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.S. POLICY OF FACTORING HUMAN
RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS INTO FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS AND
PRACTICES, INCREASING OFFICIAL USG ATTENTION IS BEING
GIVEN TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF LOANS BEING
CONSIDERED BY IFIS (THOSE OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO EA ARE
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IBRD, IDA, IFC, ADB, AND ADF).

2. WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ECONOMIC BUREAU NOW
CHAIRSA WORKING LEVEL COMMITTEE (ON WHICH EA SITS)
WHICH NOW CONSIDERS ALL UPCOMING IFI LOANS, TO RECOMMEND
TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WHAT THE U.S. POSITION TOWARD THE
LOAN SHOULD BE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY THEN ADVANCES THE

DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS IN AN NSC COMMITTEE WHICH HE CHAIRS.
POLICY ACTIONS WHICH THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES TO THE

IFIS CAN TAKE INCLUDE: TO VOTE PRO OR CON OR TO ABSTAIN
WITH OR WITHOUT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT; TO PERSUADE OTHER
REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR VIEWS; TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE
IFI MANAGEMENT TO DELAY BOARD CONSIDERATION OF A LOAN,
AND TO VOTE PRO BUT AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO MAKE CLEAR
TO THE RECEIVING COUNTRY OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT ITS
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, THAT WE WILL BE WATCHING IT AND
TAKING IT INTO ACCOUNT IN FUTURE LOAN APPLICATIONS.

3. COMMITTEE MEETINGS HAVE GIVEN PRIMARY CONSIDERATION
SO FAR TO WHETHER A COUNTRY IS A HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM
COUNTRY AND IF SO WHETHER CONDITIONS ARE IMPROVING OR
DETERIORATING, AND WHETHER THE LOAN DIRECTLY HELPS THE
"NEEDY". REGIONAL BUREAU PARTICIPATION ALSO ASSURES
THAT POLITICAL AND OTHER MAJOR OBJECTIVES ARE TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT. SO FAR THE COMMITTEE HAS NOT OPPOSED ANY EA
COUNTRY LOANS. MEANWHILE, WE ARE PREPARING COUNTRY STRA-
TEGY PAPERS ON HOW MOST EFFECTIVELY TO PROMOTE HUMAN
RIGHTS, WHICH WILL INCORPORATE OUR APPROACH TO IFI'S.

4. EXCEPT AS SPECIFIC HR ISSUES ARISE AND POSTS ARE
OTHERWISE ADVISED, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO INFORM HOST
GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THIS ASPECT OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW
AT THIS TIME, SINCE PENDING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION AND
COUNTRY STRATEGY REVIEWS MAY MODIFY PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF
OUR HR POLICY IN IFI'S. THE PURPOSE OF THIS TELEGRAM
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IS TO ASSURE THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF THESE EMERGING PROCE-
DURES. WE WILL INFORM YOU PROMPTLY ON FINAL LEGISLATIVE
LANGUAGE, COUNTRY PLANS AND OTHER RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS.
I OF COURSE CONTINUE TO WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS
IMPORTANT SUBJECT. CHRISTOPHER

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